GATHERING INFORMATION
- WHERE TO LOOK?

Emily Jaycox,
Head Librarian
Missouri Historical Society
WHERE THIS WORKSHOP FITS IN THE SERIES

Neighborhood History: What Does It Entail?

**Gathering Information for Your Neighborhood History: Where to look?**

Analyzing Your Information: What does it mean?

Using Your Neighborhood History: How do you maximize its potential impact?

Framing the Key Issues: What is important?

The Writing Process: Where do I start?
TONIGHT'S FOCUS:
DEEP DIVE INTO...

City directories
Fire insurance maps
Plat books
Newspapers
The census
THEY CAN TELL YOU...

Who lived where

What businesses and institutions served your neighborhood

How that changed over time
WHAT, WHY, WHERE AND HOW

WHAT are these sources?

WHY would you want to use them?

WHERE can you find them?

HOW do you get access to them?
CITY DIRECTORIES
TWO "FLAVORS" OF DIRECTORIES...

Alphabetical listing

"Reverse directory"
1937 REVERSE DIRECTORY
PUTTING THEM TOGETHER

PUTTING THEM TOGETHER
Heads of households (including widows)
Persons working outside the home
Sometimes college students are included
1821-1980
(very intermittent until 1860)

1930-1980
(have both front and back)

Others:
“Red and Blue books:
1918-1929
Blue books
(elite addresses only):
1883-1916
WHY USE CITY DIRECTORIES?

Research past uses / occupants of a specific building
Gain a sense of neighborhood residents and mix of businesses over time
Housing density
Vacancy rates
USED TO SET FIRE INSURANCE RATES

Building materials ➔ color coded

Number of floors; ceiling heights

Safe or unsafe features

Buildings where many people assemble (churches, schools, theaters)

Hydrants, privies
THE FIRE INSURANCE MAPS EXPAND COVERAGE AS THE CITY GROWS

Whipple/ Aubin, 1870s
Whipple 1876
Whipple/ Aubin, 1890
Sanborn 1909-1927
WHY USE FIRE INSURANCE MAPS?
CITY DIRECTORY + FIRE INSURANCE MAPS

Choose the city directory with the closest match to the date of the fire insurance map --> who occupied the buildings
Plat books show property lines and owners of large parcels.

Survey numbers help trace land back to its original land grant.
WHAT’S A LAND GRANT?

The first time a piece of property is transferred from a government to a private individual.
Most land grants in the rest of Missouri have a checkerboard shape...

But not in St. Louis!
House lots are subdivided from larger pieces of property.
Ancestors of a person

“Ancestors” of a parcel of land
Subdivisions: not just for the county

http://omeka.wustl.edu/omeka/exhibits/show/wayman_map
Hopkins Atlas, 1883:
A special plat book with buildings - covering all of St. Louis city
Another page of the Hopkins Atlas
Publication dates of St. Louis plat books:
1829
1847
1860
1870
1878
1883
1905

The west portion of the Grove
NEW INDUSTRIES AND TROLLEY TO GIVE BADEN A BOOM

Rubber Company Will Erect a Plant to Manufacture Automobile Tires.

JOBS FOR MANY WORKMEN

Building Little City Within the City Adding to St. Louis' Greatness.

Leaders of North St. Louis, Big Plants and Product

North St. Louis Car Co., Including Laclede Plant. Great & Palletable Iron Pipe

Homesman Company Proposes to Build Interurban Line to the North.

Big Railway Shops Assured

Population of the Suburb Reaches 10,000 and is Growing Rapidly.

Readers advanced. Growth in numbers, and sales volume has continued to increase.
SOUTHAMPTON
King of All Subdivisions,
WILL BE OPENED FOR SALE

Next SATURDAY and SUNDAY, Sept. 27th and 28th,
At the SUBDIVISION OFFICE, Corner KING'S HIGHWAY and DEVONSHIRE AVE.

BUT ALL - BUT A FEW OF THE GOOD THINGS OFFERED.
THE LANDS ARE SUBDIVIDED AND PlANNED.
THE SUBDIVISION OFFICE IS OPERATING.

TEN CASH BONUSES OF $250.00
BACK TO THE FIRST TEN BUSINESS BUILDING COMPLETING AND OCCUPYING THREE ROOMS IN SOUTHAMPTON.

EVEN THIS IS NOT ALL.
Write us or Come to Beautiful Southampten Park - Giving Full Particulars and Terms of Sale.

Southampton is Located on King's Highway Boulevard,
A short Distance from the Great Falls, the Orange and Denver, the Express and the Traction Routes.

MERCANTILE TRUST COMPANY,
Agents.

Building Permits

Joseph Habebrich, two-story and attiock brick flats, No. 3215 Magnolia avenue; $4,000.
I. N. Miller, stone foundation. Nos. 2051-2053 Pierce avenue; $1,800.
Caroline Blumenkamp, two-story brick flats, No. 7309 Kipling avenue; $1,000.
Oscar Gildenstern, two-story brick dwellings, Nos. 4731-4733 Compton avenue; $2,000.
Girardauk Building Company, two-story brick flats, No. 1111 Russell avenue; $2,700.
Mrs. M. A. Lawter, two-story brick flats, Nos. 2023-2025 Von Vorsten avenue; $9,000.
August Steinhauser, one-story brick dwelling, No. 5367 Birch street; $1,000.

KERRY PATCH HAS A KING

AND THE KING OWNS A SILVER CROWN, BUT DOES NOT WEAR IT.
A Statue of the Little Kingdom and Its Popular Hero-Kerry-the First King-The History of the Kerry Patch in the Making of the American Republic.

The late President was a friend of the late President.

"MAGIC CITY" OF HOMES IS BUILT IN THREE YEARS

Former Wilderness South of Tower Grove Park Has Soon Inhabitants.

IMPROVEMENTS SOUGHT

Association Organized to Obtain Municipal Work in New District.

These years have seen a willingness of the
most law, strictly, saloon and
landlords...improvements—among others a street and
personals, real estate, and a
Tower Grove Boulevard. It is a
The city...directly west of Grand
and adding to the yearly population
Tower Grove Park, and
Association "to make the new city.

Within the last three years, when
landlords...areas, and
figures have been received, at an
recorded as of 1906, or as a total;
November 200th in the 3 months
40 per cent of whom are
properly owners.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newspaper</th>
<th>Begin</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missouri Republican</td>
<td>1808</td>
<td>1919</td>
<td>Several name changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Globe-Democrat</td>
<td>1875</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Dispatch</td>
<td>1878</td>
<td>Still published</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis Argus</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>2010?</td>
<td>African American weekly; no known pre-1918 issues. Now online only?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westliche Post</td>
<td>1857</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>In German</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OTHER NEWSPAPER FORMATS

Hard copy

Microfilm

Online database
NEWSPAPER SEARCHABILITY

- Easiest
- May be copyright restricted
- May have fee
- Usually focuses on major papers

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- Online database
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Hard copy | Microfilm | Online database
When searching digitized newspapers for information about the history of your house, search for your street address but also search for the name of the addition or subdivision (i.e., Lindell Estate Addn., Tower Grove Heights Addition, Keinlein’s Subdivision)

Search tip from Dennis Northcott
• Kerry Patch
• Hop Alley
• Frenchtown
HAS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD EVER HAD A NEWSPAPER?

Ask an old timer

Ask a librarian

Don’t forget to look for specialty publications: ethnic, religious or corporate
### Schedule I.—Inhabitants in St. Louis

In the County of St. Louis, enumerated by me on the 18th day of June, 1880.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Class</th>
<th>Name of Householder</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Note of Birth</th>
<th>Note of Death</th>
<th>Note of Marriage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**THE CENSUS**
US GOVT. USES FOR REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS

- Counts every person – not just heads of households / workers
- Age, race
- Starting in 1880: info on nationality, relationship, occupation, parents’ birthplace
WHAT YEARS ARE AVAILABLE?

- Every 10 years starting in 1790
  * 1st MO federal census: 1830
- 1890 census was lost in a fire
- 1950 census will be released in 2022 (72-year time freeze for privacy)
- Pre-1850 census named only the head of household; other householders got tick marks
COMPARING “REVERSE CITY DIRECTORY” AND CENSUS

-Nearly every year
-Head of household
-Employer
-No age
-No nationality
-Race sometimes

-Every ten years
-Every household member
-Occupation
-Age, race
-Nationality, parentage
(after 1880)
...DO I REALLY NEED TO DO ALL THIS RESEARCH?

Dewey School: Child care center – Children receiving cod liver oil, 1945
Empowerment

Interpretation
OK, WHERE DO I START?
THREE LOCAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR SOURCES
THREE GOOD PLACES TO START YOUR RESEARCH

- Missouri Historical Society Library + Research Center
  225 S. Skinker

- St. Louis Mercantile Library – on UM-St. Louis campus

- St. Louis Public Library
  St. Louis Room - Central Library
  1301 Olive -
ST. LOUIS MERCANTILE LIBRARY

Neighborhood history collection highlights

• Globe-Democrat clippings morgue
• Digitized city directories
• Post-Dispatch online (on site only)
ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

-St. Louis Room
-Special Collections
-Genealogy

- Large browsing collection of St. Louis publications
- Online index to key local history sources
- Subscribes to ProQuest’s St. Louis Post-Dispatch database (1874–2003)
MHS LIBRARY + RESEARCH CENTER

- Genealogy Index
- Maps and atlases
- Workshops
It depends!

IS THERE A FEE TO ACCESS?
# IS THERE A FEE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services and collections</th>
<th>St. Louis Mercantile Library</th>
<th>St. Louis Public Library</th>
<th>MHS Library + Research Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Admission</strong></td>
<td>Free to all</td>
<td>Free to all</td>
<td>Free to all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Making copies when you are visiting</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>Free with flash drive; otherwise $</td>
<td>Free on your own device or flash drive; $ for paper copies + scans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to commercial databases</strong></td>
<td>Free to all; some copying limited to UMSL community</td>
<td>May require on site access or SLPL card</td>
<td>Free, but onsite only (MHM, LRC, and SMMM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Online access to local indexes</strong></td>
<td>Free to all</td>
<td>Free to all</td>
<td>Free to all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Getting copies from staff from index entries</strong></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is licensed content?

Why are some digitized resources free and others not?

Why is it so hard to find a complete run of a digitized newspaper?
One at a time…

Commercial digital providers license content from publishers for a fee, and then sell that access.

What is licensed content?
Different products have different license agreements. Different categories of users have different privileges. Why are some digitized resources free and others not?

If libraries do the digitizing themselves, they generally offer free access. If a company pays for the digitizing, they want to recoup their costs.
Why is it so hard to find a complete run of a digitized newspaper?

Items published before 1924 are in the public domain and can be freely reproduced. Items after that may require publisher permission. Also, grant funded projects may spread content across different constituencies instead of digitizing one complete newspaper.
## HIGHLIGHTS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY RESEARCH — *NOT DIGITIZED*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St. Louis Mercantile Library</th>
<th>St. Louis Public Library</th>
<th>MHS Library + Research Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Globe-Democrat clippings “morgue”</td>
<td>• Large browsing collection (including yearbooks)</td>
<td>• Sanborn Fire Insurance maps (mid-1900s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Strong holdings on railroad and river transportation</td>
<td>• House numbering certificates</td>
<td>• Maps and plat books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lafayette Square Restoration Committee records</td>
<td>• Maps</td>
<td>• ”Information File” card index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ordinances + city government publications</td>
<td>• Browsable city directories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Card indexes</td>
<td>• Non-digitized newspapers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Neighborhood association newsletters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Outstanding Neighborhood History Research — Free and Online from Anywhere

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St. Louis Mercantile Library</th>
<th>St. Louis Public Library</th>
<th>MHS Library + Research Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Globe-Democrat clippings file index</td>
<td>• Local History Indexes + Reference Guides</td>
<td>• Genealogy and Local History Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Digitized city directories, rosters and guides</td>
<td>• Obituary indexes</td>
<td>• Collections search (digitized photos and documents)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Details in your handout!
WHAT HAVE WE COVERED TODAY?
WHAT ARE THE BASIC BUILDING BLOCKS OF RESEARCHING NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY?
WHAT INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN EACH SOURCE?
WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR FREE AND WHICH REQUIRE A FEE?

- In person: usually free
- Online: Pre-1924 sources are usually free. Later resources vary by library and affiliation
WHAT ARE THREE GOOD PLACES TO START YOUR RESEARCH?
MANY OTHER SOURCES EXIST!

- Websites
- Event programs
- City records
- Parish records
- Interviews
- Published histories
- Feature articles
- Planning reports
You are cordially invited!

Missouri Historical Society
Library and Research Center
225 S. Skinker Blvd.

314-746-4500
library@mohistory.org

Tues-Fri 12-5 | Sat 10-5
PRE-CIVIL WAR DIRECTORIES INCLUDE FREE PERSONS OF COLOR
Online option:
Bureau of Land Management
GLO database

http://www.glorecords.blm.gov
“BLOOK BOOKS”
THANK YOU

Workshops 2-6 will continue to guide you through the process of developing a neighborhood history.

Upcoming Workshop Schedule

Feb 13  Workshop 1 / Thurs. 6 - 7:30pm
Feb 21  Workshop 2 / Thurs. 6 - 7:30pm
Feb 25  Workshop 3 / Mon. 6 - 7:30pm
Mar  4  Workshop 4 / Mon. 6 - 7:30pm
Mar 14  Workshop 5 / Thurs. 12 - 1:30pm
Mar 20  Workshop 6 / Wed. 6 - 7:30pm